A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C01B33/193 C01B33/18 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C01B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X WO 01/17901 A (JANSEN JACOBUS CORNELIS ; 1-15 MASCHMEYER THOMAS (NL); SHAN ZHIPING (NL); U) 15 March 2001 (2001-03-15) figure 2b; example 2; table 1 X US 6 107 236 A (AUBURN PAMELA R ET AL) 1 - 1522 August 2000 (2000-08-22) column 7, line 61 - column 9, line 16 column 9, lines 49-65 column 10, lines 21-29 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 15 October 2004 27/10/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Werner, H Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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